

DESCRIPTION

HIGH VOLTAGE DISCHARGE LAMP LIGHTING APPARATUS

TECHNICAL FIELD

[0001]

The present invention relates to a high voltage discharge lamp lighting apparatus for causing a high voltage discharge lamp to light.

BACKGROUND ART

[0002]

In high voltage discharge lamp lighting apparatuses for use in a high voltage discharge lamp, a predetermined high voltage must be generated to cause the discharge lamp to light.

[0003]

As means for generating a predetermined high voltage, there has hitherto been known a method for arranging two windings on the secondary side of a transformer and combining the outputs of these secondary-side windings to obtain a double voltage.

[0004]

Also, a method is possible which combines with a voltage-doubler circuit a transformer (for example, refer to Patent Document 1) having a flyback function or a transformer (for example, refer to Patent Document 2) having a forward function and thereby causes a predetermined high voltage to be generated.

[0005]

Furthermore, there has been developed a technique of employing a rectification circuit having a flyback function and a forward function, and thereby attempting to downsize the entire apparatus (for example, refer to Patent Document 3).

[0006]

Patent Document 1: Japanese Unexamined Patent Publication No. 2003-209971

Patent Document 2: Japanese Unexamined Patent Publication No. 2002-142455

Patent Document 3: Japanese Unexamined Patent Publication No. 2003-133095

DISCLOSURE OF THE INVENTION

PROBLEMS TO BE SOLVED BY THE INVENTION

[0007]

It is known that a transformer is one of the major components constituting a high voltage discharge lamp lighting apparatus and the entire apparatus can be made small by making the transformer small.

[0008]

Also, in recent years, in a vehicle headlight and the like, to achieve a high luminance by a small electric power, a high voltage discharge lamp is mostly used, and further downsizing of the high voltage discharge lamp lighting apparatus is desired.

[0009]

However, when two secondary -side windings are arranged to obtain a predetermined high voltage, the transformer will grow in size, so the request for downsizing the entire apparatus cannot be responded to.

[0010]

Also, in a transformer having a flyback function, a switching element is turned on to cause primary current to flow through the primary-side winding and accumulate magnetic energy in the core, and thereafter the switching element is turned off to cause secondary current to be generated in the secondary-side winding by the magnetic energy accumulated in the core. Consequently, the core grows in size, thus making it difficult to downsize the entire apparatus.

[0011]

The present inventor has attempted to combine a voltage-doubler circuit with such a transformer having a flyback function and thereby downsize the core. However, as shown in the experiment results described below, secondary side voltage can be boosted

only by approximately 1.5 times. Consequently, downsizing of the core is limited, so the request for downsizing the entire apparatus cannot be responded to.

[0012]

With reference to Figures 6 to 10, there will be described the experiment results of a boosting operation in the high voltage discharge lamp lighting apparatus constituted by combining a voltage-doubler circuit with a conventional transformer having only a flyback function.

[0013]

Figure 6 is a block diagram showing a schematic configuration of a discharge lamp lighting apparatus constituted by combining a voltage-doubler circuit with a transformer having only a flyback function. Figures 7 to 10 are timing charts showing a boosting operation in the high voltage discharge lamp lighting apparatus.

[0014]

As shown in Figure 6, the discharge lamp lighting apparatus constituted by combining a voltage-doubler circuit with a transformer having only a flyback function includes as a primary side circuit, a power source circuit 51 and a switching circuit 52, and as a secondary side circuit, a rectification circuit 56 having a flyback function, and a voltage-doubler circuit 57.

[0015]

Connected to a primary-side winding 53 is the power source circuit 51 via the switching circuit 52. Also, connected to the secondary-side winding 54 are the rectification circuit 56 having a flyback function, composed of a diode D_{11} and capacitor C_{11} , and the voltage-doubler circuit 57 composed of a diode D_{12} and capacitor C_{12} .

[0016]

Furthermore, connected to the rear stage of the rectification circuit 56 having a flyback function is an inverter circuit 58 receiving a both ends voltage of the capacitor C_{11} . Connected to the inverter circuit 58 is a discharge lamp 60 via a booster circuit 59. Also, connected to the booster circuit 59 is the voltage-doubler circuit 57 via a diode D_{13} .

[0017]

In the high voltage discharge lamp lighting apparatus, when the switching circuit 52 is turned on, current flows through the primary-side winding 53 and magnetic energy is accumulated in a core 55 by the flyback function; when the switching circuit 52 is turned off, secondary voltage is generated in the secondary-side winding 54.

At this time, when observed at a measurement point a_{11} , the primary voltage has a rectangular waveform of approximately 0 to 28 V as shown in Figure 7.

[0018]

Also, the secondary voltage has a rectangular waveform of approximately - 50 to 60 V as shown in Figure 8 when observed between the measurement point a_{12} and the ground, and is rectified by the rectification circuit 56 and has a constant value of approximately 60 V as shown in Figure 9 when observed at an output terminal a_{13} of the rectification circuit 56.

[0019]

In addition to the voltage rectified by the rectification circuit 56, applied to the capacitor C_{12} constituting the voltage-doubler circuit 57 is the secondary voltage (the voltage of a rectangular waveform observed at the measurement point a_{12}) via the diode D_{12} . At this time, generated between a measurement point a_{14} and the ground is a rectangular waveform voltage of approximately 60 to 168 V as shown in Figure 10.

[0020]

The rectangular waveform voltage observed at the measurement point a_{14} is applied to the booster circuit 59 via the diode D_{13} , and boosted to a lighting start voltage of the discharge lamp 60 by the booster circuit 59.

[0021]

In this manner, in the high voltage discharge lamp lighting apparatus constituted by combining the voltage-doubler circuit 57 with the transformer having only a flyback function, the secondary voltage can only be boosted to approximately 168 V at the front stage of the booster circuit 59. More specifically, in this discharge lamp lighting

apparatus, the secondary voltage can only be boosted by approximately 1.5 times at the front stage of the booster circuit 59. Thus, to obtain the lighting start voltage of the high voltage discharge lamp, a circuit or the like for performing boosting is further needed.

[0022]

Also, in the transformer having only a forward function, when the switching element is turned on and primary current flows through the primary-side winding, then secondary current is generated in the secondary-side winding. Accordingly, even when a voltage-doubler circuit is incorporated to generate a predetermined high voltage, there are limits to reduction of the number of turns in the secondary-side winding, so the request for downsizing the entire apparatus cannot be responded to.

[0023]

Also, as with the technique disclosed in Patent Document 3, in the transformer employing a rectification circuit having a flyback function and a forward function, in addition to the primary-side winding connected to the power source and the secondary-side winding connected to the inverter circuit, supplying electric power to the discharge lamp via the inverter circuit, there is further needed a tertiary-side winding for supplying electric power to the discharge lamp via a booster circuit (an igniter), thus making it difficult to downsize the transformer.

[0024]

It is generally known that, in the technique disclosed in Patent Document 3 and the like, there is needed a tertiary-side winding for supplying electric power to the discharge lamp via a booster circuit. For example, in "Development of Discharge Headlamp Ballast" described in DENSO Technical Review Vol. 3 No. 1, 1998, pp. 65 to 72, this fact is shown in Figure 10 etc.

[0025]

More specifically, in addition to the primary-side winding and the secondary-side winding, the transformer having a configuration disclosed in Patent Document 3 further requires a tertiary-side winding. Accordingly, 4 T (turns; the abbreviation is used below)

of the primary-side winding ($\phi 0.40 \times 2$ pieces), 18 T of the secondary-side winding ($\phi 0.40$) and further, 40 T of the tertiary-side winding ($\phi 0.18$) are needed, for example, thus causing a problem in that the transformer grows in size.

[0026]

In this manner, according to the transformer having a configuration disclosed in Patent Document 3, the entire apparatus can be downsized to a certain degree. However, particularly, in the case of a high voltage discharge lamp lighting apparatus used in a vehicle or the like, further miniaturization is desired.

[0027]

In view of the above circumstances, the present invention has been proposed, and has an object to provide a high voltage discharge lamp lighting apparatus capable of obtaining a high voltage required to light a high voltage discharge lamp while downsizing the entire apparatus.

MEANS FOR SOLVING THE PROBLEMS

[0028]

A high voltage discharge lamp lighting apparatus according to the present invention capable of achieving such object is including: a rectification circuit having a forward function and a flyback function, disposed on a secondary side of a transformer and receiving a secondary side voltage; and a voltage-doubler circuit adding to the secondary side voltage an output voltage generated by the rectification circuit having the forward function and the flyback function.

[0029]

It is noted that a circuit having a forward function is a circuit determining its output voltage based on a power source voltage and a turn ratio between a primary-side winding and a secondary-side winding, and a circuit having a flyback function is a circuit determining its output voltage based on an inductance and a current of a primary-side winding.

[0030]

Also, in the high voltage discharge lamp lighting apparatus according to the present invention an inverter circuit and a booster circuit are connected to a rear stage of the voltage-doubler circuit.

EFFECT OF THE INVENTION

[0031]

According to the high voltage discharge lamp lighting apparatus of the present invention, a voltage-doubler circuit is further added to a rectification circuit having a forward function and a flyback function, whereby a predetermined high voltage required to light a high voltage discharge lamp can be generated.

[0032]

Also, in comparison with a high voltage discharge lamp lighting apparatus constituted by combining a circuit having a forward function and a voltage-doubler circuit, the number of turns of the secondary-side winding can be reduced; in comparison with a high voltage discharge lamp lighting apparatus constituted by combining a circuit having only a flyback function and a voltage-doubler circuit, the core can be downsized. Accordingly, the entire apparatus can be downsized, and thus the apparatus can appropriately be used particularly in a high voltage discharge lamp used in a vehicle or the like.

BEST MODE FOR CARRYING OUT THE INVENTION

[0033]

A high voltage discharge lamp lighting apparatus according to an embodiment of the present invention will be described below in detail with reference to the accompanying drawings.

Figure 1 is a block diagram showing a schematic configuration of a high voltage discharge lamp lighting apparatus according to the embodiment of the present invention. Figures 2 to 5 are timing charts showing a boosting operation in the high voltage discharge lamp lighting apparatus.

[0034]

As shown in Figure 1, the high voltage discharge lamp lighting apparatus according to the embodiment of the present invention includes as its primary-side circuit, a power source circuit 1 and a switching circuit 2, and as its secondary-side circuit, a rectification circuit 6 having a forward function and a flyback function, and a voltage-doubler circuit 7.

[0035]

Connected to a primary-side winding 3 is the power source circuit 1 via the switching circuit 2.

Also, connected to a secondary-side winding 4 is the rectification circuit 6 having a forward function and a flyback function, constituted of a diode D_1 , a diode D_2 , a capacitor C_1 and a capacitor C_2 , and the voltage-doubler circuit 7 constituted of a diode D_3 and a capacitor C_3 .

[0036]

Furthermore, connected to the rear stage of the rectification circuit 6 having a forward function and a flyback function is an inverter circuit 8 receiving a both ends voltage of the capacitors C_1 and C_2 , and connected to the inverter circuit 8 is a discharge lamp 10 via a booster circuit 9. Also, connected to the booster circuit 9 is the voltage-doubler circuit 7 via a diode D_4 .

[0037]

It is noted that, though not shown in detail in Figure 1, the booster circuit 9 includes a charging capacitor, an igniter and a spark gap.

[0038]

In the high voltage discharge lamp lighting apparatus according to the present embodiment, charges accumulated in the capacitor C_3 are supplied to the discharge lamp 10 via the inverter circuit 8 and the booster circuit 9. In this case, when the discharge start voltage is exceeded in the booster circuit 9, then a lighting voltage is supplied to the discharge lamp 10, and dielectric breakdown occurs within the arc tube of the discharge lamp 10, thus lighting the discharge lamp.

[0039]

Also, in the high voltage discharge lamp lighting apparatus according to the present embodiment, it is sufficient to arrange, for example, 4 T of the primary-side winding ($\phi 0.40 \times 2$ pieces) and 18 T of the secondary-side winding ($\phi 0.40$). Hence, as with a conventional transformer employing a rectification circuit having a flyback function and a forward function, a tertiary-side winding for supplying electric power to the discharge lamp via a booster circuit (an igniter) is not needed.

[0040]

The operation of the high voltage discharge lamp lighting apparatus according to the embodiment of the present invention will now be described with reference to Figures 2 to 5.

[0041]

When the switching circuit 2 is turned on, current flows through the primary-side winding 3 and then, in a portion in charge of the forward function, secondary voltage is generated by the secondary-side winding 4. Simultaneously, in a portion in charge of the flyback function, magnetic energy is accumulated in the core 5, and when the switching circuit 2 is turned off, secondary voltage is generated by the secondary-side winding 4.

[0042]

At this time, when observed at a measurement point a_1 , the primary voltage has a rectangular waveform of approximately 0 to 28 V as shown in Figure 2.

Also, the secondary voltage has a rectangular waveform of approximately 0 to 108 V as shown in Figure 3 when observed between the measurement point a_2 and the ground, and is rectified by the rectification circuit 6 and has a constant value of approximately 108 V as shown in Figure 4 when observed at an output terminal a_3 of the rectification circuit 6.

[0043]

Furthermore, in addition to the voltage rectified by the rectification circuit 6, applied to the capacitor C_3 constituting the voltage-doubler circuit 7 is the secondary

voltage (the voltage of a rectangular waveform observed at the measurement point a_2) via the diode D_3 . At this time, generated between a measurement point a_4 and the ground is a rectangular waveform voltage of approximately 110 to 220 V as shown in Figure 5.

[0044]

The rectangular waveform voltage observed at the measurement point a_4 is applied to the booster circuit 9 via the diode D_4 , and boosted to a lighting start voltage of the discharge lamp 10 by the booster circuit 9.

[0045]

In this manner, in the high voltage discharge lamp lighting apparatus constituted by combining the voltage-doubler circuit 7 with the rectification circuit 6 having a forward function and a flyback function, the secondary voltage can be boosted to approximately 220 V at the front stage of the booster circuit 9. More specifically, in this discharge lamp lighting apparatus, the secondary voltage can be boosted by approximately 2 times at the front stage of the booster circuit 9. Thus the circuit configuration is simple, and at the same time the core and the secondary side-winding can be downsized.

[0046]

Furthermore, a tertiary-side winding for supplying electric power to the discharge lamp via a booster circuit (an igniter) is not needed, so the transformer itself can be constructed with a small size. Accordingly, a highly efficient high voltage discharge lamp lighting apparatus with the entire apparatus downsized can be provided.

[0047]

It is noted that the electrical characteristics of each diode and capacitor constituting the high voltage discharge lamp lighting apparatus according to the present invention are to be appropriately varied and implemented according to the rating of a connected discharge lamp.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

[0048]

Figure 1 is a block diagram showing a schematic configuration of a high voltage discharge lamp lighting apparatus according to an embodiment of the present invention;

Figure 2 is a timing chart showing a boosting operation in the high voltage discharge lamp lighting apparatus according to the embodiment of the present invention (measurement point a_1);

Figure 3 is a timing chart showing the boosting operation in the high voltage discharge lamp lighting apparatus according to the embodiment of the present invention (measurement point a_2);

Figure 4 is a timing chart showing the boosting operation in the high voltage discharge lamp lighting apparatus according to the embodiment of the present invention (measurement point a_3);

Figure 5 is a timing chart showing the boosting operation in the high voltage discharge lamp lighting apparatus according to the embodiment of the present invention (measurement point a_4);

Figure 6 is a block diagram showing a schematic configuration of a discharge lamp lighting apparatus constituted by combining a voltage-doubler circuit with a conventional transformer having only a flyback function;

Figure 7 is a timing chart showing a boosting operation in the conventional high voltage discharge lamp lighting apparatus (measurement point a_{11});

Figure 8 is a timing chart showing the boosting operation in the conventional high voltage discharge lamp lighting apparatus (measurement point a_{12});

Figure 9 is a timing chart showing the boosting operation in the conventional high voltage discharge lamp lighting apparatus (measurement point a_{13}); and

Figure 10 is a timing chart showing the boosting operation in the conventional high voltage discharge lamp lighting apparatus (measurement point a_{14}).

DESCRIPTION OF SYMBOLS

[0049]

1, 51 Power source circuit

- 2, 52 Switching circuit
- 3, 53 Primary-side winding
- 4, 54 Secondary-side winding
- 5, 55 Core
- 6 Rectification circuit having a forward function and a flyback function
- 7, 57 Voltage-doubler circuit
- 8, 58 Inverter circuit
- 9, 59 Booster circuit
- 10, 60 Discharge lamp
- 56 Rectification circuit having a flyback function
- D_1 to D_4 , D_{11} to D_{13} Diode
- C_1 to C_3 , C_{11} , C_{12} Capacitor